

The Lepidoptera Collection of Scarborough Museum – background and some specimens of note

The recent curation and consolidation of the British Lepidoptera collections at the Scarborough Museum revealed them to be a substantial repository of specimens and information. The bulk of the material was contained in five collections originating from G. B. Walsh, H. W. Dobson, A. N. Hickton, S.R. Pollard and the Girls' High School. These collections have been amalgamated into a single collection within which the origin of each specimen can be traced. The final collection consists of 1,058 butterflies, 3,137 macromoths and a few (316) micromoths, all with data of some sort. Much of the material is of local origin and so forms an invaluable source of Yorkshire records. In all, 701 British species are represented by specimens possessing data. The A. N. Hickton, S.R. Pollard and the Girls' High School collections were substantially the work of single individuals. The H. W. Dobson collection contains much material collected by E. Richards while the G. B. Walsh collection contains many specimens bearing the labels of A. Smith, A. S. Tetley and J. Thwaytes. The latter collection also contains material of diverse periods and collectors, presumably the result of purchase or exchange. The whole museum collection contains specimens originating from over 250 collectors.

List of Collectors represented by specimens in the Scarborough Collection.

P.W. Abbott, B.W. Adkin, Allis, Arley, J. Armitage, C. Ash, J.H. Ashby, Atmore, H.A. Auld, C.J.B., W.P.B.-Maye, J.W. Bagett, H.W. Baker, W.S. Baker, E.R. Bankes, R.H. Barker, T.L. Barnett, P. Barraud, C. Barrett, W.H. Barrow, H. Bartlett, R.T. Baumann, T. Baxter, Mrs. Bazett, Rev. J. Bell, W.Bell, M.S. Blaker, T. Blest, W. Bloomfield, R.T. Bowman, C.A. Briggs, P.M. Bright, Brights, G. Brooks, H.B. Browne, G.V. Bull, Rev. H. Burney, A.R. Burrows, C.R.N. Burrows, A.E. Bursor (?), G. Burt, W.B. Butler, J.C., Cannon, P.A. Cardew, Mr. Carratt, J.A. Clark, A. Clark, W. Claxton, W.S. Clutton, G.B. Coney, B.H. Crabtree, W.Craigs, E.S. Craske, W.J. Cross, W.P. Curtis, A.A. Dalglish, Rev. A. Day, F.A. Day, G.O. Day, M.C. Dixon, H.W. Dobson, Iris M. Dobson, S. Dobson, H. Doidge, M. Dolby, F. Dresser, G.C. Dresser, J. Dunsmore, R. Dutton, Eastwood, A.D. Edwards, J. Elisha, S. Ellison, W.M. Ellison, W. Fabian, Farren, C. Fenn, G. Fleming, W.B. Fletcher, A. Ford, A. Fords, E.C. Dobrée-Fox, R.E.E. Frampton, P.T.G., Miss Gamble, J.E. Gardner, G.R. Garland, E.F. Gilmour, Girls' High School, W.G. Glutton, Goodson, E. Goodwin, S. Goodwin, P.P. Graves, Rev.J. Green, F.J.H., W.L.H., J.C. Haggart, F.H. Hamling, Hancock, J. Harrison, G.E. Hartley, Hartley-Wintney, W.H. Harwood, H.W. Head, Hearter, G.H. Heath, J.A. Helps, Herd, A.N. Hickton, S.G. Hills, A.J. Hodges, A. Hodgson, A. Holmes, C. Holmes, A. Horne, W. Howgate, Huggins, W.H. Jackson, W. Jarvis, C.F. Johnson, H. Johnston, A.H. James, R.D. Pany Jones, R. Junkermann, J.J.F.X. King, W.W. Kinsey, A.J.L., B.R. Last, H.A. Leeds, F.H. Lees, C. Levett, Lincs. J.A. Lofthouse, A.M. Longhurst, H. Lowden, C.I.M., J.N.M., G. Machin, Major, N. Maney, W. Mansbridge, M.J. Mansfield, Major S. Maples, G.F. Matthew, Mattley, G.L. McDearmid, H. McNaught, P.P. Milman, J.C. Mohenley(?),

M. Moody, E.D. Morgan, Morton, S.L. Mosley, Murray, Mutch, G.D.N., Newberry, L.W. Newman, C.E. Newnham, R.A. Nicols, J. Nobbs(?), F.A. Oldaber, G.B. Oliver, R.W. Parfitt, F. Pennington, C.P. Pickett, F.N.P., W.M. Pierce, A. Pike, R. Pitman, S.R. Pollard, A. Ponchaud, S. Proudfoot, L.B. Prout, W. Quibell, R.B.R., W.J.R., H.R.-B., G.H. Raynor, P.C. Reid, W. Reid, Renton, E. Richards, N.M. Richardson, G. Ridley, P.W. Ridley, J.P. Robson, E.F.S., E.R.S., E.W.S., Capt. Salomp (?), T. Salvage, W. Salvage, M. Samis (?), Seymour, E.P. Sharpe, V.E. Shaw, A. Simmons, F.A. Small, Smallpiece, H.D. Smart, A. Smith, Rev. B. Smith, B.H. Smith, J. Smith, T. Smith, A.H. Sperring, Spiller, C.L. Stein, A.T. Stiff, G.H.T. Stovin, Boswell Syme, F.T.-A., Tait, L. Tatchell, E.H. Taylor, A.S. Tetley, A.H. Thompson, J.A. Thompson, S.T. Thorne, Rev. C.F. Thornevell, J.E. Thwaytes, A.E. Tong, W. Torsdy, D. Tozer, Mr. Tugwell, T. Tunstall, J.W. Tutt, W.F. Urwick, V. Valezina, Capt. Vipan, G.C.W., J. Waddington, S. Wakely, J. Walker, S. Walker, A.A. Wallington, S.A. Wallis, G.B. Walsh, J. Warrington, H. White, A.J. Wightman, B.S. Williams, Williamson, Willman, A.C. Winford, P. Winter, F. Womersley, H. Wood, H. Worsley Wood, F.C. Woodforde, G.M. Woosnam, W. Wylie, G.W. Wynn, C.C. Young, C.E. Young, C.S. Young, H. Yums.

There are several specimens in the collection that deserve individual mention:

Zygaena exulans (Hohenwarth, 1792). Zygaenidae. Scotch Burnet

There is a short series of this species from the G. B. Walsh collection but only one bears data, namely "Braemar (S.L. Mosley, 8.v.[19]02)". This data indicates that it is from the well-known locality in Deeside. However a single specimen from the S.R. Pollard collection with broader wings and a more matt coloration (identity confirmed from a preparation of the male genitalia) bears the handwritten label "Rannoch/ [18]92". No other specimens of this species are known to have been taken at Rannoch which is over 50 miles away from the known locations in Deeside. This single specimen of this elusive uplands species is tantalising. Did (or does) an isolated colony occur at Rannoch or is the label spurious? Certainly hearsay information suggests that the species may be more widely distributed than the present known colonies indicate.

Strymon melinus Hübner [1818] Lycaenidae.

A single specimen of this Central American species labelled "POCKLINGTON 15.7.1894" was in the A. N. Hickton collection masquerading as *Quercusia quercus* (Purple Hairstreak). A genuine *Q. quercus* was also present bearing a label "CHESTERFILD[sic] 2.8.1878" [Several labels indicate that A. N. Hickton suffered from mild dyslexia]. As, at the period of capture of the *S. melinus*, a central American species would have been a better prize than a second specimen of the indigenous species, the Purple Hairstreak, it seems probable that the misidentified *melinus* had been accidentally imported into Yorkshire and when captured was assumed to be a local specimen of the similar British species.

Erebia ligea (Linnaeus, 1758). Nymphalidae. Arran Brown

Amongst the S.R. Pollard material was a store box of mixed British butterflies and moths, only some of which bore data. A single specimen of *Erebia ligea* in good condition but without data was also present. However, as a single specimen of another non-British European satyrid without data was also present, there are only tenuous grounds for assuming that this *E. ligea* was of British origin.

Spiris striata (Linnaeus, 1758). Arctiidae. Feathered Footman

A few store-boxes from the H. W. Dobson collection contained specimens that had not been labelled up individually but had written in pencil "All at Cloughton" and pencil lines demarking different date groups. One such box but just labelled "All [caught] at Cloughton" without any indication of dates contained a single specimen of *Spiris striata*. It is mounted on the same style of black pin as the rest of the material in the box and set in the same rather casual way. There is no reason to believe this is not of local origin. Cloughton is about five miles north of Scarborough and appears to be where H. W. Dobson lived.

I feel sure there are other items of interest awaiting discovery in this diverse collection if persons with a better grasp of the local distribution of macrolepidoptera than myself are willing to spend the time.

I am grateful to David Barbour, Gerry Tremewan and Mark Young for useful discussions about the *Zygaena exulans* specimen. My thanks also go to Scarborough Museum and to my colleague Graham Rotheray for giving me the opportunity to curate this interesting collection.— K. P. BLAND, National Museums of Scotland, Chambers Street, Edinburgh EH1 1JF.

Arboreal substrate for an egg-laying Meadow Brown *Maniola jurtina* L. (Lep.: Nymphalidae)

During a survey on Alderley Edge, Cheshire, of biotope exploitation by *Maniola jurtina* L. and *Pyronia tithonus* L. (Nymphalidae, Satyrinae) in the sweltering conditions of 14 July 2003 with temperatures rising to 30°C, a female meadow brown was observed laying three eggs at 13.43 hours on an oak tree trunk 20cms above short grass at the base of the tree and whilst in shade of the tree. The eggs were all deposited on lichens growing on the tree trunk (aspect c. 250°), two in rapid succession in slightly different locations and the third ten seconds after the second at a nearby position. The tree is one of 11 located in a line at the base of hill slope meadow where the butterfly is abundant.

During the survey a number of meadow browns, both sexes, have been recorded within woodland. On 14 July, two were observed accessing open spots in the woodland by flying in complete shade under the dense pine and oak canopy. One male was engaged in intense patrolling mate location of last year's leaf litter in one small area under oak trees. During the long period of research on wing margin